



Tenderheart Bear



Friend Bear



Funshine Bear



Secret Bear



Cheer Bear

Math and Pre-Algebra Expectations



Champ Bear



Love-A-Lot Bear

Grade 7
Mrs. Cobb
Room 223

www.MrsCobbMath.com

(This class has nothing to do with Care Bears. However I thought it made a cheerful cover page, and its always good to know your Care Bears. ☺)



Birthday Bear



Share Bear



Grumpy Bear



Bedtime Bear



Wish Bear



Good Luck Bear



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🌈 Classroom Rules 🌈

The following are the seven classroom rules:

1. **Follow all school and handbook rules.**
Check your agenda for a list of school rules.
2. **Be in your seat and ready to begin class as soon as the bell rings.**
We don't have much time, so it's necessary to maximize it.
3. **Bring all necessary materials with you to class.**
Your materials include:
 - your **textbook** (provided).
 - your math "**notebook**" (a folder with prongs in the center).
 - loose leaf paper** (no spiral) with at least three holes punched along the left margin.
 - two or more sharpened **pencils** (not pens), or two or more mechanical pencils with plenty of lead. (I suggest carrying a small pencil pouch.)
 - your **agenda**.
 - a **book to read or work from other classes** to complete in the event you finish your math homework in class.
 - a **calculator**.
4. **Follow all directions the first time they are given.**
It saves time, and keeps you safe.
5. **Keep comments relevant to the task.**
You can tell me about the cool stuff in your life during passing period, though.
6. **Be respectful of those around you by keeping your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.**
Being disrespectful not only keeps you from learning, it also distracts and annoys others.
7. **Speak at appropriate times using appropriate voices.**
Sometimes it's OK to talk; sometimes it's not. You can usually tell what the appropriate action is, but ask me if you're not sure.



🍰 Classroom Procedures 🍰



Please use only pencils in math class. When working a math problem, it is sometimes necessary to erase and correct mistakes. Using any kind of pen (even erasable), can make a mess on your paper, so I request that you use pencils only for math.



Please keep the area around your seat neat. By keeping your materials inside your desk and not on the floor or in the aisle, other students and I will not be in danger of tripping over your things. Also, please check around your desk before leaving the classroom to make sure the area is neat when you leave.



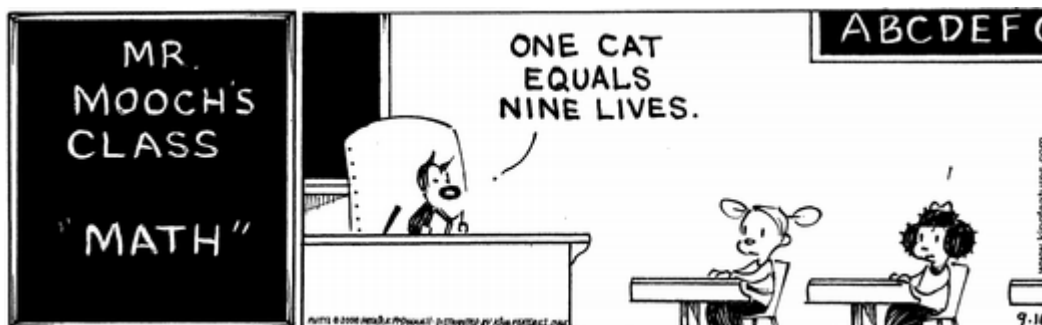
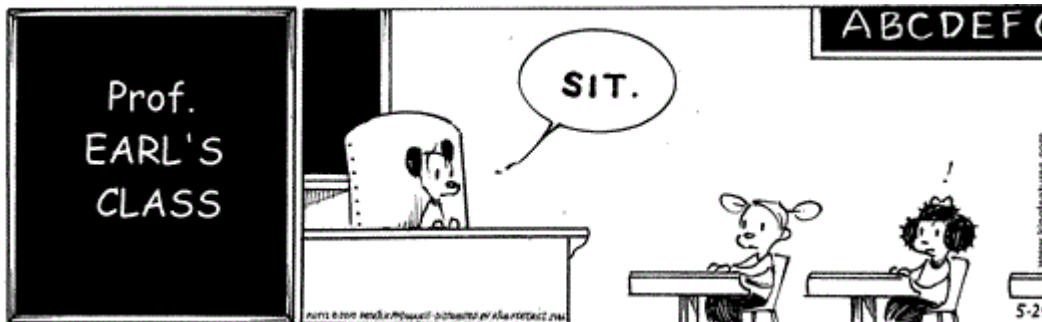
Please remain in your seat during instructional time. When a student gets up to sharpen a pencil or throw trash away during instructional time, it can be distracting. You may leave your seat without permission during *working time* to take care of pencils and trash, or to ask me questions.



Please use your work time wisely. Once you have finished the homework assignment, you may read a book or work on assignments from another class.



Anytime you leave the room at your own request, I must sign one of your agenda passes.



♥♥ Taking Notes ♥♥

You will take notes frequently. If you are absent, you should get a copy of the notes from me or a responsible peer. Note taking is simple: **neatly write on your paper everything I write on the board**, unless I specifically tell you not to do so. These notes will become part of your math notebook and can be a wonderful resource. You will usually be able to find an example of a tough problem in your notes. I will allow you to use notes on quizzes and on most tests.

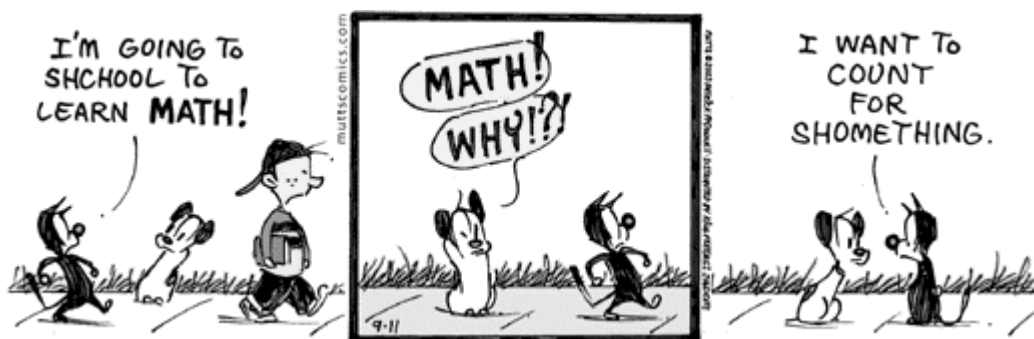
🌸 Math “Notebook” 🌸

I will provide you with a math folder that will be referred to as your math “notebook.” Your notebook should be well-organized. **Organization is often the key to understanding and enjoying math!** You may organize your math notebook any way you choose. If you are unsure how to organize your notebook, here is a suggested procedure.

- ❑ In the **left pocket** of your notebook, keep **this expectations packet** and your **homework assignments to be graded**.
- ❑ In the **center binder** of your notebook, keep both your **grade sheet** and the **notes** that we take in class. The grade sheet should be in front, followed by your notes in chronological order, with the most recent notes in the back. You may keep extra blank sheets of paper behind your notes.
- ❑ In the **right pocket** of your notebook, you will keep **graded homework assignments**. They should be in chronological order (order by date), with the oldest assignment in the back and the most recent assignment in the front.

By keeping organization, you will help yourself learn new concepts and ideas. You will be less frustrated, and your study skills (and grades!), will improve. After every chapter test, you may empty your notebook of everything except this expectations packet and your grade sheet. I recommend keeping an “old chapters” notebook so your main notebook doesn’t get cluttered.

In order to encourage the proper organization of your math notebook, I will have several notebook checks and quizzes. Sometimes I will spot check them, sometimes I will collect them, and sometimes I will give you a quiz that requires the use of your well-organized notebook. These checks may be announced or unannounced.



🌈 Homework 🌈

- ❑ Every Monday, I will give you your homework assignments for the entire week. You are responsible for copying assignments from the board into your agenda.
- ❑ The Homework Access Line can be reached at **277-3607**. Call this number from any touch tone phone and enter my teacher number, **471**, to hear your math assignments for that week. I update this message every Friday to announce assignments for the following week.
- ❑ Most homework is graded on an effort basis. This means your homework will be checked daily to see if you *completely* did every problem, not *correctly* did every problem. I choose to grade this way because I don't expect you to have mastered a new skill right away; it takes practice to reach mastery. Therefore, I grade your practice and effort. If we spend more than one day on a topic, only the first assignment is graded on an effort basis. (Tests and quizzes are graded for mastery, not effort.)
- ❑ We will correct homework together the day it is due. You must correct the problems you missed. During notebook quizzes, I will be checking to see that you corrected problems you originally missed.
- ❑ I will drop your lowest homework score at the end of each nine week period. Therefore, **one** missed assignment will not count against you.
- ❑ If you are ever absent, homework that was due the day you were absent will be due when you return. Homework that was assigned the day you were absent will be due the day after you return. If you are absent for multiple days, we will work together to make a homework schedule for you.
- ❑ Use these guidelines for completing your homework:
 1. Emphasize problem numbers with **parenthesis** or a **circle**.
 2. Label all homework papers in the upper right-hand corner with **your name, the date, and the assignment label**.
 3. Leave a space **above, below, and between** problems.
 4. **Use the lines** on your paper to write numbers and words.
 5. **Be neat**.
 6. **Use pencil** at all times.
 7. You must **show all of your work**. Showing answers only is not acceptable. **Showing work means copying the problem and writing down the work you did, even what you punched into the calculator**. I care about your work as much as I do the answer.

Please see Homework Examples on the next page.



☀ Homework Examples ☀

☺ DO THIS:	JoAnna Hackney		
	August 6, 2003		
	Section 1-2		
$\begin{array}{r} \\ \end{array}$			
1.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 25 \\ \times 43 \\ \hline 75 \\ + 100 \\ \hline 1075 \end{array}$	2.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 54 \\ - 38 \\ \hline 16 \end{array}$	3.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 8 \overline{) 4056} \\ \underline{40} \\ 05 \\ \underline{- 0} \\ 56 \\ \underline{- 56} \\ 0 \end{array}$	4.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 65 \\ 9 \\ 81 \\ 7 \\ + 93 \\ \hline 235 \end{array}$
5.) $8^2 = 8 \cdot 8 = 64$		6.) $7(x+4) = 7(x) + 7(4) = 7x + 28$	

☹ NOT THIS:	JoAnna		
$\begin{array}{r} \\ \end{array}$			
1.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 25 \\ \times 43 \\ \hline 75 \\ 100 \\ \hline 1075 \end{array}$	2.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 54 \\ - 38 \\ \hline 16 \end{array}$	3.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 8 \overline{) 4056} \\ \underline{40} \\ 05 \\ \underline{- 0} \\ 56 \\ \underline{- 56} \\ 0 \end{array}$	4.) $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 65 \\ 9 \\ 81 \\ 7 \\ + 93 \\ \hline 235 \end{array}$
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🌙 Quizzes 🌙

- ❑ I will periodically give quizzes to help you check your understanding of subject matter. Quizzes are always announced in advance, and you will be allowed to use notes.
- ❑ All notebook grades are considered quiz grades.
- ❑ I will periodically check to make sure you are keeping your grade sheet up to date. This check will result in a quiz grade.

🌈 Tests 🌈

- ❑ Tests come at the end of chapters and semesters. They are worth more points than quizzes. Because every test is different, different resources will be allowed for different tests. Sometimes notes may be used, sometimes calculators may be used, and sometimes, only pencils may be used.
- ❑ If you are unhappy with a test grade, you may retake a test. Have your parent sign the original test, and I will allow you to take a test similar to the original test. Your final test grade will be the **average** of the two test grades.

🍀 How To Prepare For A Test 🍀

Practice! Make an attempt to work previously graded (and corrected), homework problems from your math textbook. Then go to your math notebook to check your work. Did you show your work properly? Did you show all the steps? Did you get the correct answer? If you did not work the problem correctly, then try working it again without looking at your graded paper. Try doing this on a daily basis, every other day, or especially when you have no math homework assignment. Work at least 3-5 problems each time, depending on how much work you have in other classes. Concentrate on doing the homework problems you missed and had to correct during class, not the ones that you got correct. Work on correcting your weaknesses!

Why do you think sports players, musicians, and actors and actresses practice? To get better, of course! Apply that same concept to your academic courses in order to be successful. If you **prepare** to do the job, you will be successful!

👤 Extra Credit 👤

Though extra credit opportunities will not be given on an individual basis, I may offer small extra credit assignments to all students. Additionally, there will be extra credit questions offered on some quizzes and tests.

Group Work

These days, many companies require that their employees be able to work together in groups to solve problems and work on projects. During the school year, we will be working on certain math problems in group situations. Working together, being polite to one another, and having fun solving the problems are some of the goals we want to achieve.

The basic plan that we will follow during group work has four steps:

1. **Read** the problem.
2. Have a group discussion to **decide on a plan of action**.
3. **Solve** the problem (individually).
4. **Compare, discuss, and agree** on a solution. All group members should have the same work and the same final solution.

The responsibilities of the group members are as follows:

1. Participate in **group discussions**.
2. **Help** other group members.
3. Make sure each member of the group is **on task**.
4. Prompt each other to **think through** each problem and not just give the steps and the final solution.
5. **Be polite** and make sure each group member is polite as well.
6. **Ask questions**. Examples: "What do we need to do with the denominators in this fraction addition problem?" "Do you need help?" "Do you understand?"

The following are some items that I should be hearing from each group as I walk around the room observing:

1. Let's read the problem first.
2. What's going to be our plan to solve this problem?
3. Let's do this first.
4. We need to show our work.
5. Do you understand?
6. Do you need help?
7. Let's compare our work.
8. Do we all have the same steps?
9. Do we all have the same solution?
10. Let's go on to the next problem.



